

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)
Adult Issues Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Friday, February 17, 2017 * 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
DDDS Fox Run, 2nd floor training room
2540 Wrangle Hill Road, Bear, DE

Members present: Terri Hancharick, Committee Chair, Parent Advocate; Karen Gallagher, Self-Advocate, Committee Vice-Chair; Alvin Emory, Self-Advocate; Carol Barnett, Division of Services for Aging Adults and Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD); Barbara Monaghan, Self-Advocate; Bill Monaghan, Self-Advocate

Members absent: Laura Strmel, St. John's Community Services (SJCS); HarrietAnn Litwin, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Vivian Turner, CERTS

Guests Present: Brigitte Hancharick, Self-Advocate

Staff present: Kristin Harvey, Social Services Administrator, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

I. Call to Order: Committee Vice-Chair Karen Gallagher called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM, after noting that a quorum was present. Karen stated that Committee Chair Terri Hancharick would be there shortly. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Approval of Minutes: The committee voted to approve the January, 2017 minutes as written.

III. Approval of Agenda: The committee voted to approve the agenda as written.

IV. -Chair's Report: Terri shared that she recently presented to a group of University of Delaware (UD) students about the pros and cons of intentional communities as a part of her role with Endless Possibilities In the Community (EPIC). Terri stated that the presentation went very well. The students had already received informational materials in favor of intentional communities. Terri shared that she was glad to have been provided the opportunity to speak about true community living versus living in intentional communities. Terri also shared that she has learned about a new pre-vocational program being offered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS). Terri asked that the committee consider adding an agenda item for their next meeting focusing on how to get individuals with disabilities out of guardianship arrangements if they wish, and into competitive employment.

V. - Staff Report: Kristin shared information about the 2017 LIFE Conference held in January. She provided an overview of the evaluation feedback provided by the conference contractor. Laura asked if there was a way for individuals who are not on the LIFE Conference Planning Committee to share ideas for topics and presenters. Kristin stated that as a member of the committee, she would be glad to share any ideas with the committee at large and ask for their consideration. Laura suggested more concurrent sessions which focus on employment.

VI. Current Business

A. Focus on our Down syndrome/Alzheimer's objective-next steps, Request for Proposals (RFP) Development:

The committee discussed the Down syndrome/Alzheimer's objective which was assigned to the committee for oversight in the DDC's current five year state plan. The committee asked that subject matter experts be invited to upcoming meetings. Suggested invitees included representatives from DDDS, the Delaware Alzheimer's Association, the Swank Memory Center, the Delaware Health Care Coalition, DSAAPD, Christiana Care, the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware, the Center for Disabilities Studies and the 321 Foundation.

The committee agreed to commit \$25,000 of their allotted Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) funds to the development of a RFP seeking a contractor to help develop a multi-faceted public awareness campaign. The campaign would focus on educating individuals with Down syndrome, their families/caregivers, and key state policymakers about the high risk of individuals with Down syndrome developing early-onset Alzheimer's disease. The goal of the campaign would be to make individuals with Down syndrome and their families aware of the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, signs to look for, and providing them with information about screening tools and resources that may help with future planning. For policymakers, the goal would also be to educate and make them aware of the high risk for developing Alzheimer's that is associated with having Down syndrome. Policymakers would also receive information on the potential impact on the state's Medicaid/Medicare and public health care systems, to assist them in making informed future decisions concerning funding. Kristin stated that she will draft the RFP and provide a copy for the committee to review at their next meeting.

B. Ideas for a Sports Club

The committee had a rich discussion regarding what may be expected under the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) rule in Delaware. The committee discussed the importance of community partnerships and communication/information-sharing. Transforming and supporting sheltered workshops into supported employment providers was also discussed, as was the importance of communicating with your state and federal legislators.

Terri broached the idea of a social club in which the members unite in a shared appreciation of watching and playing sports. The committee stated that this sounds like a great idea. Alvin shared that the committee might want to include other community organizations into this "club" model. He specifically mentioned seeking inroads with area volunteer fire companies, and other community-service organizations which are always seeking volunteers. Kristin stated that this idea ties in well with one of the objectives in the five year state plan that the Children and Families Committee has been tasked with overseeing. The committee discussed the possibility of joining with the Children and Families Committee to work on this effort.

VII.

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.